

PARENTS

Parents Forum

On November 14th, I was able to observe the fourth *You Can Count on Mother Goose* session at the Cranston Teen Center with Michelle Vallee, from Cranston Public Library.

We began the session by reading *Inch by Inch* and then read *Just a Little Bit*. As we each read a page, then moved onto the activities after each person shared their experiences of different ways to measure, whether by “eyeballing” the object or in relation to another object whose length was known. It was clear to me these conversations sparked creative curiosity about math and I thought, “This is such a great way to introduce children to math!” We had a great deal of fun! Check with your local library or agency for upcoming sessions.

On November 27th, the Providence Public librarians, Cheryl Space and Linda D’Ambra partnered with Even Start to hold the fourth *Mother Goose Asks “Why?”* session at the Alfred Lima School.

Since this was going to be a translated session with Spanish speaking parents using the Spanish version of *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, I was nervous as I don’t speak any Spanish.

Cheryl, Linda and I awaited the arrival of the parents, fruit lay waiting on paper plates and a pile of compost on another table layered with paper. By 7 pm, the parents’ session was underway and we took to the task of reading *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*.

One workshop and I was hooked! How I could learn another language so easily and share that with my child who is also learning Spanish in junior high school. Check with your local library for upcoming sessions! This one was so much fun!

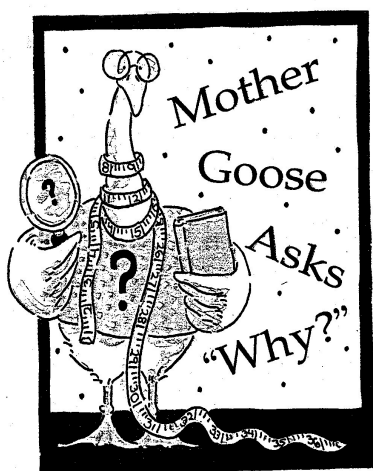
Remarks

What an adventure these last few months have been as a member of the RI Mother Goose Team!

On October 30th, I was able to meet with Joseph Morra, Library and Literacy Initiatives Specialist at CHILDSPAN, the statewide child development and education training system. I was truly impressed at the resources CHILDSPAN makes available to child care professionals and parents: a well-stocked resource library with materials for you and your children, including training videos, children’s literature, resource books, and developmentally appropriate toys and manipulatives. They also have prop boxes, which are designed to open up children’s imaginations to pretend they are at the ice cream parlor, campground, or a day at the beach. Borrow one for the month!

Workshops for child care providers and parents are held in CHILDSPAN’s Conference Room (and other locations throughout Rhode Island) and scheduled throughout the year. From CPR to literacy to alternate methods of learning, CHILDSPAN offers so much. Whether you are a parent or child care professional, CHILDSPAN will enrich what you do with young children.

CHILDSPAN is located at 500 Prospect Street in Pawtucket, RI. Call (401) 729-0765 for library membership information, asking for Joseph Morra.



December 2001

Volume 2 Issue 2

Inside this Issue

Welcome

Parents Forum

Featured Books

Amazing Museum

Calendar of Free Events

Priscilla Tremblay
Editor

(401) 222-5840

Featured Books



Weather; A First Discovery Book

by Pasquale De Bourgoing

An outstanding, colorful book featuring pages that are transparent to use as overlays to explore weather. Simple illustrations with colorful details to make the science of weather fascinating!



Science Around The Year

by Janice Van Cleave

Did you know city lights trick trees into keeping their leaves longer? Learn how birds learn their songs. There's so much to discover in this amazing book for kids of all ages. It makes learning about science a year long project.



The Solstice Evergreen

by Sheryl Karas

Read this with your family to learn the history, folklore and origins of the Christmas tree! Throughout human history, people around the world have decorated living trees in the dead of winter to symbolize the renewal of life. Detailed and entertaining drawings make this book a treat for parents and children alike.

AMAZING MUSEUM



Museum of Natural History

Rhode Island's only Natural history museum and Planetarium!

Located on the grounds of

**Roger Williams Park
in Providence, RI 02905**

Call (401) 785-9457

Among the natural history collections are 175,000 preserved plants and animals such as insects, shells, birds and mammals! There are also 15,000 earth science specimens consisting of rocks, minerals and fossils. What a great way to investigate more science with your children!

Offered within the Museum are:

Discover Us! Educational Programs

Similar to our *Mother Goose Asks "WHY?"* programs they offer

- Hands-on learning.
- Age appropriate activities.
- Investigation, experimentation and discovering science in interesting ways.

• **Butterfly Bonanza**

Investigate these beautiful insects!
(Remember *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*?)

• **Fantastic Fireballs**

Discover the solar system and create your own comet!

• **Seeds and Seed Travel**

From sunlight to seeds, falling leaves to soil, learn more about the cycle of life.
(Remember *Home Lovely*?)

Planetarium Programs at the Museum include many programs that include observing, investigating and measuring. See the Calendar of Events or [Call the Museum for a complete list of Upcoming Events!](#)

Calendar of Events

Providence Children's Museum

1st to 30th CLAYTIME

A space for all ages to explore their creative side! Come in and paint pottery or a ceramic figure to take home. **Call (401) 421- 5456 for more information.**

Cormack Planetarium at Roger Williams Park Zoo

3-2-1 Blast Off!

Join cybernauts Devin and Alex aboard the Sol 1 for an amazing tour of the Sun, planets, moons and other nearby worlds. **Call (401) 785-9457 for schedules.**

Contact your Local Library to reserve passes to area museums!

Mother Goose Asks "Why?" was developed by the Vermont Center for the Book in conjunction with the Montshire Museum of Science and the Vermont Department of Libraries.

Substantial funding is provided by a grant from the National Science Foundation, with local support from the Rhode Island Office of Library and Information Services, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the Providence Children's Museum, the Providence Public Library, the Newport Public Library, the Cranston Public Library, and CHILDSPAN.

Presented in partnership with Rhode Island READS, a project of the Public Education Fund, and the Corporation for National and Community Service.